



July 2004

# Manti-La Sal National Forest



## Forest Plan Revision

Newsletter No. 4: Potential Wilderness Evaluation

**The Manti-La Sal National Forest roadless area inventory has been updated. The comment period for the evaluation of inventoried roadless areas for wilderness potential has been extended to AUGUST 20, 2004.**

During the original inventory, mineral leases and motorized trails were excluded from roadless areas. After reviewing the Forest Service roadless inventory protocol, it was determined mineral leases and motorized trails should be included in inventoried roadless areas. The draft roadless inventory maps were updated as of July 15.

The Manti-La Sal National Forest is required to evaluate and consider roadless areas for recommendation as potential wilderness. The regulations implementing the National Forest Management Act (36 CFR 219.17) require that "roadless areas...shall be evaluated and considered for recommendation as potential wilderness areas during the forest planning process..." Further requirements for evaluation and designation of wilderness are found in Forest Service Manual (FSM) 1923, FSM 2320 and Forest Service Handbook (FSH) 1909.12, Chapter 7.

The Manti-La Sal National Forest has completed the inventory process to identify areas that are greater than 5000 acres, unroaded, and substantially without the presence of other facilities or influences of man. Influences of man can include vegetation treatments, water diversions, utility easements, pipelines, terracing, and other noticeable facilities and treatments detracting from wilderness character.

With the release of the Transportation Rule (FSM 7710) road management on the National Forest has been simplified. Roads, of any type, standard, or maintenance level, are categorized as either "classified" or "unclassified." Classified roads are intended for long-term use for National Forest purposes. For the purposes of the roadless inventory, the presence of a classified road disqualifies that portion of the area from consideration as inventoried roadless.

Classified roads are roads wholly or partially within or adjacent to National Forest System lands that are determined to be needed for long-term motor vehicle access, including state roads county roads, privately owned roads, National

Forest System roads, and other roads authorized by the Forest Service (36CFR 212.1).

Unclassified roads are not intended for long-term use or were created through unauthorized means; temporary Forest Service roads are not intended for long-term use. The presence of unclassified or temporary roads would not prevent areas from being considered for wilderness potential.

Roadless area numbers have changed on the latest draft maps. Comments received prior to July 15<sup>th</sup> are still valid and will be considered. Updated detailed maps of the individual areas can be found on the Forest website ([www.fs.fed.us/r4/mantilasal/projects](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/mantilasal/projects)).

The Manti La-Sal National Forest is currently soliciting information on the wilderness character of inventoried roadless areas from county officials and the public. An evaluation form has been designed to collect this information and can be found on the Forest website ([www.fs.fed.us/r4/mantilasal/projects](http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/mantilasal/projects)).

When completing the evaluation form, please fill in your contact information and the number of the roadless area being evaluated. **(There is an unique number for each roadless area displayed on the roadless inventory maps; this number is the key link between the map and the evaluation form.)**

An area recommended as suitable for wilderness must meet the tests of:

- **Capability** - the degree to which the area contains the basic characteristics that make it suitable for wilderness designation.
- **Availability** - the values of the wilderness resource should offset the value of resources that formal wilderness designation would forego.
- **Need** - clear evidence of current or future public need for additional designated wilderness in the general area under consideration.

The evaluation form has a rating system of High (H), Medium (M), Low (L), and Unknown (U) for each item. (Continued on page 2)

In addition to the inherent wilderness quality it possesses, an area must provide opportunities and experiences that are dependent upon or enhanced by a wilderness environment. The ability to manage the area as wilderness must also be considered.

Circle the rating that best fits the character of the roadless area. Below the rating is an area for comments. **Comments that describe each existing characteristic are the most important information requested on the form.** This information will be most helpful to us in development of alternatives and management direction for these areas.

**Evaluation forms should be sent to:**  
**Manti-La Sal National Forest**  
**Forest Plan Revision Team**  
**599 W. Price River Drive**  
**Price, UT 84501**  
**Questions? Call the Forest Plan Revision**  
**Team at 435-636-3500**

HOW CAN YOU PARTICIPATE AT THIS TIME	DUE DATE
Complete and submit evaluation forms for any inventoried roadless area you are familiar with. Updated roadless inventory maps and evaluation forms are available on the Forest website: <a href="http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/mantilasal/projects/">http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/mantilasal/projects/</a> .	<b>August 20</b>

#### WEBSITES OF INTEREST

##### **DRAFT ROADLESS INVENTORY MAPS AND EVALUATION FORMS:**

Manti-La Sal National Forest Website

<http://www.fs.fed.us/r4/mantilasal/projects/>

##### **GENERAL INFORMATION:**

Forest Service Worldwide Website

<http://www.fs.fed.us/>

##### **FOREST SERVICE DIRECTIVES (MANUALS AND HANDBOOKS)**

<http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/>

Land and Resource Management Planning Handbook 1909.12

Wilderness Evaluation—Chapter 7

<http://www.fs.fed.us/im/directives/fsh/1909.12/1909.12,7.txt>

##### **WILDERNESS ACT OF SEPTEMBER 3, 1964**

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/16/1131.html>

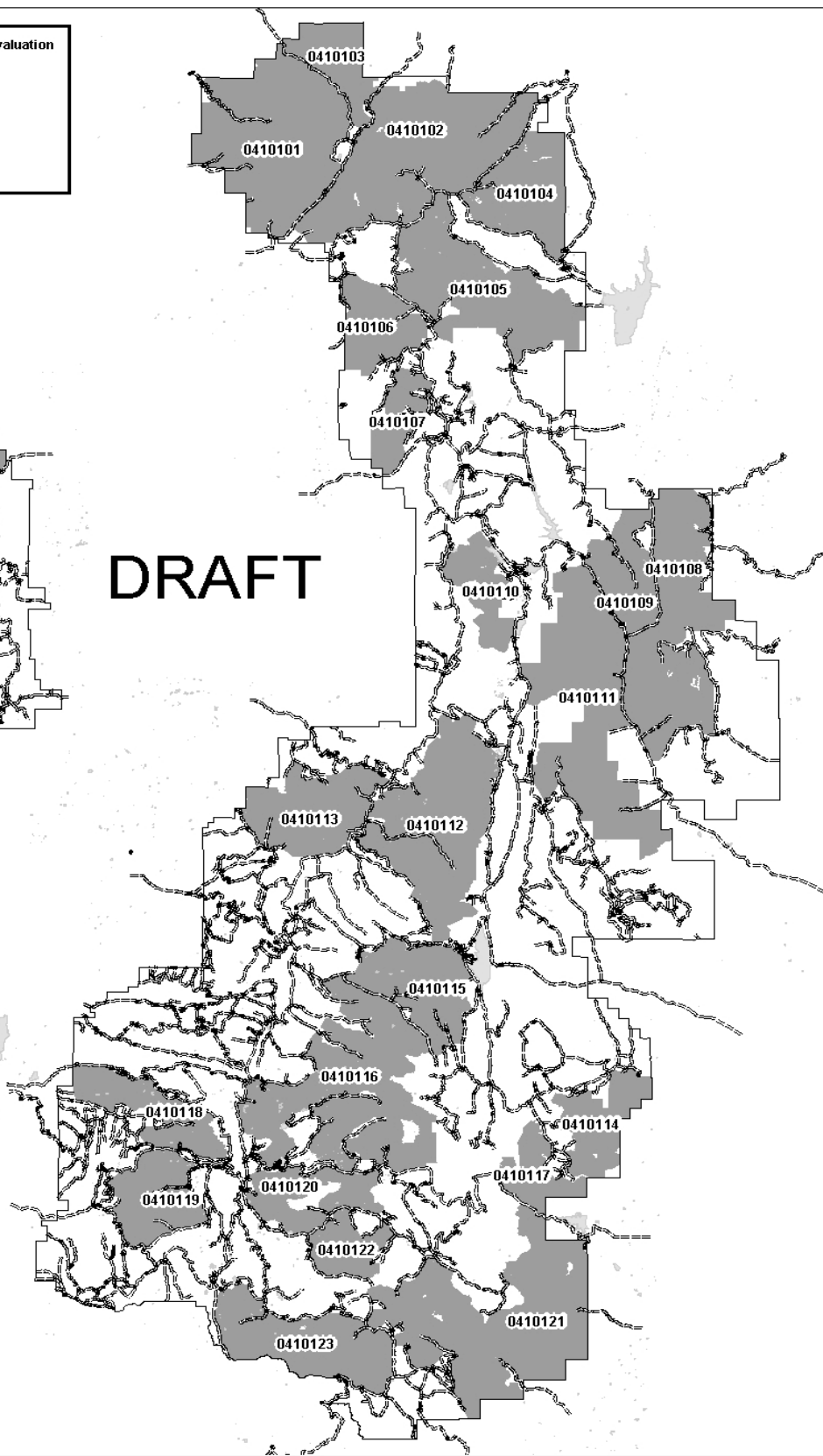
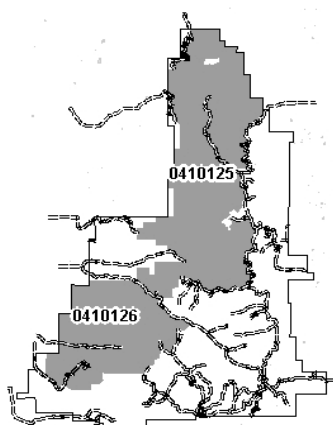
DATES	FOREST PLAN REVISION TIMELINE	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION OPPORTUNITIES
<b>May-August 20</b>	Evaluation of Wilderness Characteristics of Inventoried Roadless Areas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Submit comments by August 20</li> <li>♦ Information on the Forest Website</li> </ul>
<b>August/September</b>	Summary of the Analysis of Management Situation Published <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Identifies Needs for Change</li> </ul> Notice of Intent Published in Federal Register <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Formal scoping period begins</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>♦ Formal comment period</li> <li>♦ Submit comments in writing, fax, email, on web site</li> </ul>

**Draft Roadless Areas for Wilderness Evaluation  
Manti Division  
July 13, 2004**

== Roads  
Lakes  
Draft Roadless Area

10 50 1 2 3 4 5 6 Miles

**DRAFT**

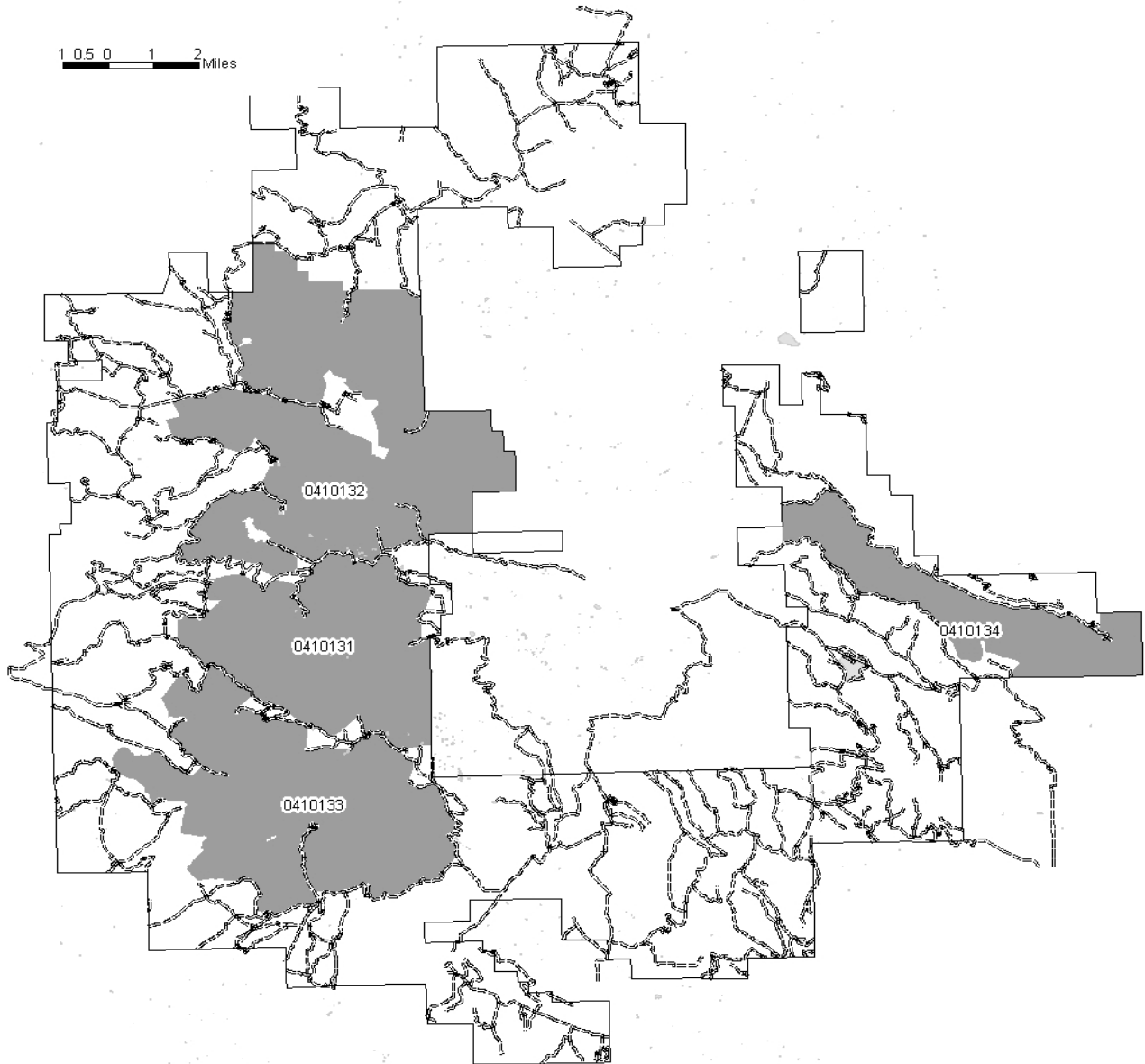


Draft Roadless Areas for Wilderness Evaluation  
Moab District  
July 13, 2004

== Roads  
Lakes  
Draft Roadless Area

DRAFT

1 0.5 0 1 2 Miles

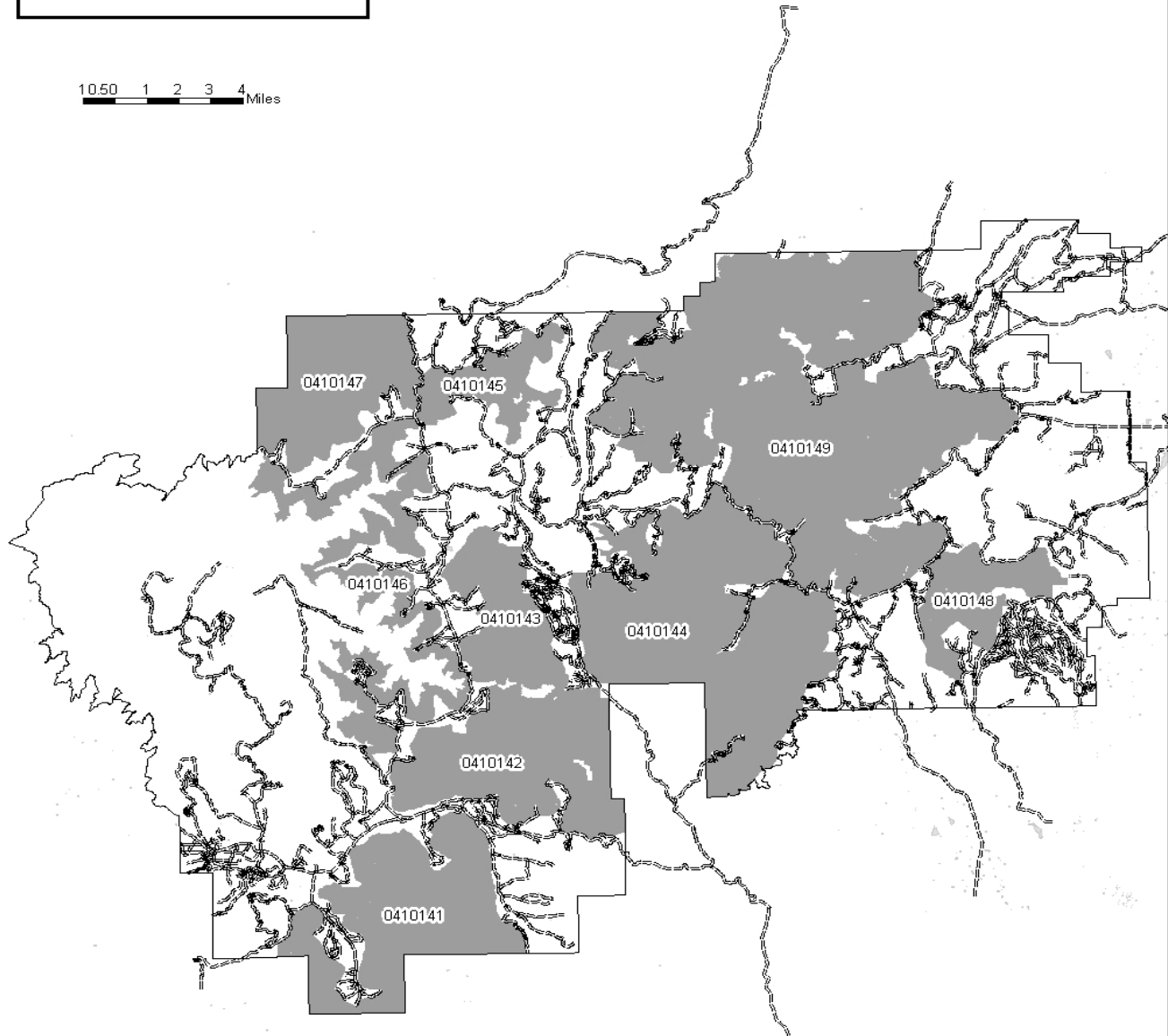


Draft Roadless Areas for Wilderness Evaluation  
Monticello District  
July 13, 2004

== Roads  
Lakes  
Draft Roadless Area

DRAFT

10.50 1 2 3 4 Miles



Manti-La Sal National Forest  
599 West Price River Drive  
Price, UT 84501



Phone: 435-636-3500  
Fax: 435-637-4940

